

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

REFLECTING THE 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday marked the 2-year anniversary of President Bush's now infamous "Mission Accomplished" speech aboard the USS *Lincoln*. Tomorrow the House of Representatives will vote on another \$82 billion for the Iraqi conflict and Afghanistan conflict, bringing the total cost to the American taxpayers of \$300 billion. Sunday, the 2-year anniversary of the "Mission Accomplished" speech; tomorrow the United States Congress puts the tab at \$300 billion for the Iraqi and Afghanistan engagements.

What have we accomplished? We have defeated Saddam Hussein; yet we find ourselves mired in an endless occupation. This past January we witnessed a successful election; yet the progress on developing a functioning government has been slow at best. Terrorism and the insurgency remain as strong as ever and at times seems to be escalating.

Today we learned about another explosion killing 50 individuals. Last week over 100 individuals were killed in different terrorist acts. The economy is stalled, the civil society cannot form a consensus, and millions of Iraqis remain without basic services such as electricity. The brave men and women in the American Armed Forces continue to fight a valiant effort, but the battle has taken its toll.

In addition to the \$300 billion it has cost the taxpayers, we have lost 1,600 sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles; and 12,000 citizens are wounded, some permanently. And the strain is so great the recruiters in the armed services cannot meet their enlistment goals. Through the first 5 months of fiscal year 2005, the Army is short its recruitment goal by 15 percent. The Pentagon now says that they are stretched so thin, it would be difficult for the Armed Forces to meet other obligations should they need to.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Iraqi Freedom was a war of choice. As President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." One can only hope that the war in Iraq was the right choice, and as I said, tomorrow we will add an additional \$82 billion, bringing the total cost to \$300 billion.

But in the meantime, while we have made this effort in Iraq and Afghani-

stan, what has happened here at home? Every President has always thought in the middle of a military engagement, how do I make America stronger post this war? What do I do to think about America's future, raise its sights to see another horizon?

President Lincoln, in the middle of the Civil War, he thought of the transcontinental railway system. President Lincoln thought of the land grant colleges. President Eisenhower thought, in the height of the Cold War, of the highway system in America. President Kennedy, in the middle of the escalation of Vietnam and the Cold War, thought of putting a man on the moon. President Roosevelt, during World War II, thought of the GI bill that built and made this an American century the last century.

So as we go through it, Eisenhower thought of the highway system here in America; President Bush is threatening to veto the highway bill. President Lincoln thought of the transcontinental railroad system; President Bush wants to veto Amtrak and eliminate it. Every President has thought of America as a greater and bigger vision. This is the first President who is now talking about a lesser vision for America in the middle of a war.

We must not have the legacy only of 1,600 dead, 12,000 wounded, and costing \$300 billion and an America that is weaker and smaller and all we have left them is \$2 trillion of additional debt to dig their way out. We can do better. We must have a vision of America that is stronger past this conflict, not one that leaves Iraq stronger and us weaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SENIOR DEMOCRATS SHOULD LISTEN TO THEIR RANK AND FILE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the time here on the House floor to discuss a pressing matter not only to this House of Representatives but to the future of our country, really, and the type of debates we are going to engage in as a body.

It has been interesting to read press reports, press reports that some on the

other side of the aisle have been pushing forward regarding this House and the behavior of our Republican Members on this side. It turns out that senior Democrats, the senior Members of the other party, have focused on the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), our Republican majority leader. They focused on the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) because he has been an effective conservative here in the United States House of Representatives, an effective leader for this House for all Republicans, and actually for all Americans, to pass tax relief, to pass limitations on lawsuits, to pass good conservative social policies that actually help our country move forward. The Democrats are attacking him because he is an effective leader, and they are rising to this challenge. Instead of debating the issues, they are debating process. Instead of debating substance, they are debating process.

□ 1645

Because they cannot beat us on the issues that we are fighting for every day on this side of the aisle, and because many of their rank-and-file join with us on these votes, some in the leadership on the Democrat side of the aisle have resorted to ethical complaints against the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

What has been found in recent days, many reports indicate that those leaders are casting stones; yet they are living in a glass house, and their leadership, many leaders on the other side realize that there are ethical violations on their own side, so perhaps they should not engage in this battle.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have found that the leadership on the other side, many leaders, at the very least, realize that perhaps they should not take this line of attack against our Republican majority leader, because they have violated the very same rules that they point to him for violating.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask many of the leadership on the other side to listen to their rank-and-file and realize that we need to be debating the great issues of the day, not debating ethics. We need to have a functional Ethics Committee here in the House. We need to have a House that can actually move policies forward and not sit here every day and listen to the other side of the aisle complain about process.

So I ask those senior Democrats to listen to their rank-and-file, the rank-and-file that voted with us on the energy bill, the rank-and-file that voted with us on the Republican side for an energy policy, for tax relief, for a good budget; those that are actually looking at reasonable reforms to move our Nation forward, instead of resorting to what the New Republic says is their strategy, and I quote from this article, "Democrats should consider fighting by extra-parliamentary means, going beyond the standard parameters of legislative debate and attacking Republicans not on issues but on ethics, character. In other words, it may be time